

MacNeil's Notes

Volume I, Number 2

Summer, 1990



Official Publication of the
Standing Liberty Quarter Collectors Society

MACNEIL'S NOTES

Official publication of the Standing Liberty Quarter Collectors Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing together and increasing the knowledge of people interested in Standing Liberty Quarters.

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

SUMMER, 1990

OFFICERS

Keith Saunders	<i>President</i>
Joseph P. Abbin	<i>Treasurer</i>
Larry Gedney	<i>Editor</i>
Lawrence N. Rogek	<i>General Counsel</i>

Printed by
TECHNA-GRAPHICS SERVICE, INC.
450 Interchange Rd.
Lehigh, PA 18235

Additional copies available at \$2.50 from the SLQC Society, P.O. Box 14762, Albuquerque, NM 87191-4762.

Send change of address notice to the SLQC Society, P.O. Box 14762, Albuquerque, NM 87191-4762.

CONTENTS

Bylaws.	3
Treasurer's Report.	3
From the President.	4
Letter to the Editor.	5
Special Offers.	5
The Silver Coinage of 1916: An Artistic Reconnaissance. <i>By Thomas S. Lamarre</i>	6
The Availability and Scarcity of AU Standing Liberty Quarters. <i>By J.H. Cline</i>	11
It's Filler Time.	14
The Standing Liberty Quarter: An Objective Analysis. <i>BY George W. Vanden</i>	16
Classified Ads.	19

Articles and comments are the opinions of their authors and not necessarily those of the SLCQ Society.

No material in this publication may be reproduced in part or in whole without prior written permission.

BYLAWS FOR THE SLQCS

1. Promotes the sharing and writing of information on Standing Liberty quarters to an organization of individuals who are interested in increasing their knowledge of the series. For Society purposes, Standing Liberty quarters are defined as U.S. coins designed by Hermon A. MacNeil and dated between 1916 and 1930 (incl.);
2. Gives Standing Liberty quarter collectors an opportunity to contact other collectors with similar numismatic interest;
3. Can promote consistent grading standards among collectors, dealers, Society members and non-members alike;
4. Provides members a means to sell their Standing Liberty quarters to other members, in an effort to complete or upgrade their collection;
5. Offers benefits to all collectors of Standing Liberty quarters, whether they collect AG through MS65+ or in between;
6. Gives its members an opportunity to express their opinions regarding all aspects of the Society;
7. Is a not-for-profit organization in all aspects, dedicated solely to the benefit of its members and those who assist the Society in advancing its purposes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Joe Abbin

The following is a summary of the Society's financial transactions for the period ending 4/30/90:

INCOME

1990 Dues.....	\$300.00
Donation.....	11.00
Fact Sheet Sales.....	20.00
Ad Sales.....	<u>135.00</u>
Subtotal.....	\$466.00

EXPENDITURES

Mailing Labels.....	\$ 25.00
Office Supplies.....	35.76
Postage.....	<u>65.65</u>
Subtotal.....	\$126.41

BALANCE FORWARD 4/30/90..... \$740.88

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SLCCS is alive and well. The first issue of our journal turned out to be a great success, due largely to those of you who sent articles and advertisements and to Richard Barilla for producing an attractive publication. Richard and Larry Gedney, our editor for the next three issues, are working hard to make *MacNeil's Notes* a worthwhile publication.

Will you take the time to write a knowledgeable article for a forthcoming issue? Or if you read an article in another periodical which you think would be of interest to our members, send a copy to our editor. He will proceed with getting permission for us to use it, if he thinks it is advisable. Remember, also, that members can place classified advertisements in our journal, free of charge to non-dealers. Letters to the editor are also welcome. All material for *MacNeil's Notes* is accepted on a space available basis and may be subject to editing by Editor Larry Gedney.

Our membership as of April 25, 1990 stands at ninety-two. So we are growing! Hopefully, other collectors will "see the light" and join our ranks. Please help to spread the word! I have received a few comments on the Bylaws which appeared in the first issue of *MacNeil's Notes*. After conferring with Joe Abbin, our other officer, the final version appears elsewhere in this issue.

I have arranged to have a formal meeting of SLQCS at the FUN show in Orlando, Florida, during January, 1991. We hope to have a speaker at that time. Details will be forthcoming.

We will need to vote on officers for 1991. If you are interested and willing to serve as President (also membership chairman) or Treasurer, please send me a blurb about yourself. We will publish this information in the fall issue of *MacNeil's Notes*, so send it to me at the club address by August 10th. Hopefully, the new officers can be introduced at our January, 1991 meeting in Orlando. If you are attending the ANA convention in Seattle on August 1, I will look forward to meeting you.

Keith Saunders

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Concerning the statement made on page 7 of the spring issue that "all 1916s were struck from rusted dies and suffer from a severe loss of head detail," I have never heard this before and it certainly is not true! The U.S. Mint was no neophyte to the manufacture of coins of the realm and took great pride in their finished product, especially since this was a new coin! They were experimenting with different surfaces on coins, mostly from 1907 through 1917, and the 1916 does have a slightly matted or satiny look which was fully intended by the Mint. A close examination of the Standing Liberty quarter patterns also show use of this matting process. Many type ones have satiny surfaces. Some more so than others. Furthermore, there is no loss of head detail in a 1916 quarter because of rusting. If your readers will closely examine a 1916 Standing Liberty quarter and compare it to a 1917 one, they will see that the two coins are produced from different dies that do not have the same detail at all. The heads are different, the bodies are different, the shields are different, etc. When I say this I mean that the 1916 and the 1917 type one have the same basic design elements, but that their details are totally different, not variations or changes made from the same master hub. Different master hubs were used for the two dates of type one quarters. In fact the 1916 and 1917 type one Standing Liberty quarters could be considered two different one year only type coins, but have been lumped together because of their similar looks. There *is* such a thing as a fully struck 1916 head, but it will not show the same detail as a 1917 one because it is struck from a die with a different design on it. The transference of designs follows from the master hub to the master dies to the working hubs to the working dies following a relief to incuse to relief to incuse progression. Because different master hubs were used, two different coins were produced. I hope this information will clarify this situation.

Keith N. Kelman

SPECIAL OFFERS

As an educational service to our members, Mr. J.H. Cline, author of *Standing Liberty Quarters*, is offering the revised (1986) edition of the softbound copy of his book to Society members for \$8.95 postpaid. Order it directly from him at P.O. Box 68, Palm Harbor, FL 34682.

From the National Collectors Laboratories we have available to our members the following publications: *Genuine Characteristics Reports of the 1916 Type 1 quarter and of the Overdate quarter*; *Counterfeit Analysis Report of the 1917 Type 1 quarter*. The Society is offering to members a set of these 3 at a postpaid price of \$4.00 (regularly \$5.00). Make checks payable to SLQCS and mail to P.O. Box 14762, Albuquerque, NM 87191-4762.

THE SILVER COINAGE OF 1916

An Artistic Reconnaissance

By Thomas S. Lamarre

"The inferiority of our coinage to the same kind of work by almost every other advanced nation of the earth . . . is . . . keenly felt . . ."

— Mint Director James P. Kimball, 1887

Things were not going well for Teddy Roosevelt in 1916. Jungle fever had left him weak and prematurely aged, and his bid to recapture the presidency was crumbling as the Democrats touted Woodrow Wilson with the slogan "He kept us out of war." There was, however, some consolation for the Rough Rider. The coinage redesign movement that he had set in motion was about to culminate in a new dime, quarter, and half dollar.

Roosevelt's collaboration with outside artists marked a fresh approach to the problem of redesigning the nation's coinage. For more than a century the Mint had relied almost exclusively on its own engravers for new designs. The first design contest was an internal affair, pitting Chief Engraver William Barber against his assistant, George T. Morgan, in the development of a new silver dollar. It began in the latter part of 1877 and ended soon after Mint Director Henry Linderman sent a friend to advise Morgan about his models.

Ten years later, Mint Director James P. Kimball began formulating plans for another competition. "The inferiority of our coinage to the same kind of work by almost every other advanced nation on the earth," he wrote, "seems to be keenly felt by many as unworthy of the development which the arts of sculpture and design have here attained."

Kimball admitted that sometimes "too much is expected in the way of improvement," but he was certain that new designs could be developed "in keeping with contemporaneous art." In 1891 the Mint invited ten artists to submit proposals for a new dime, quarter, and half dollar. The participants, however, signed a round robin saying, "The time given for the preparations of designs is too short and the compensation altogether insufficient, while no assurance is given as to who will make the awards."

Outraged Mint officials decided to stage a public competition, judged by Chief Engraver Charles E. Barber, seal engraver Henry Mitchell, and prominent sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Not surprisingly, they found that "none of the designs or models submitted are such a decided improvement upon the present designs of the silver coins of the United States as to be worthy of adoption by the Government." By default, Barber was assigned the task of preparing the new designs.

Roosevelt assumed the presidency in 1901, and in characteristic fashion he cut through red tape and egos to solicit coinage designs from Saint-Gaudens. "I want to make a suggestion," he told the artist in 1905. "It seems to be worthwhile to try for a really good coinage, though I suppose there will be a revolt about it!" Roosevelt predicted that Saint-Gaudens' designs for \$10 and \$20 gold pieces would "seriously increase the mortality among the employees of the Mint," but he said they would "perish in a good cause."

Then came a rapid-fire succession of coinage designs by outside artists: Bela Lyon Pratt's quarter eagle and half eagle in 1908, Victor D. Brenner's Lincoln cent in 1909,

and James Earle Fraser's Indian Head five-cent piece in 1913. In December 1915 Mint Director R.W. Woolley invited Hermon MacNeil, Adolph A. Weinman, and Albin Polasek to submit designs for the dime, quarter, and half dollar.

The artists were to be paid \$300 each, with an additional \$2,000 per winning design, and April 15, 1916, was set as the deadline for entries. Winners were to be selected by the Mint Director and Treasury Secretary, who promised to seek the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts.

Each artist had impeccable credentials. MacNeil was a graduate of the Boston State Normal Art School and the Julianne Art School and Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Czechoslovakia-born Polasek had studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the American Academy in Rome. Weinman, born in Germany, attended the Art Student's League in New York and studied under Saint-Gaudens. Despite their diverse backgrounds, the three artists were not strangers. Earlier in 1915, Polasek and MacNeil had won awards for sculpture at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition; Weinman served as a jury member in that competition.

It is believed that twenty-eight-year-old Elsie Kacel Stevens was Weinman's model for Liberty. Stevens and her husband were tenants in an apartment building owned by the sculptor. MacNeil reportedly found a roof studio in the heart of New York where he could work on the coinage designs "high above the dirt and noise of the street." Little is known about Polasek's entries.

On May 30, 1916, a press dispatch said that the winning designs had been chosen from "more than fifty" sketch models. The designs were approved by Treasury Secretary William Gibbs MacAdoo, Mint Director Woolley, and the Fine Arts Commission, which pronounced them to be "most satisfactory from an artistic point of view."

Officials planned to have the coins in circulation by mid-summer, a deadline that proved impractical. "The United States Mint here is having trouble in making satisfactory dies for the new dimes, quarters, and half dollars from the designs furnished by the Treasury Department," a Philadelphia press dispatch dated September 15, 1916, said, "and there is delay in getting the new currency in circulation. The treasury official hoped to have the new silver money in circulation July 1.

"According to Dr. Albert A. Norris, chief clerk of the Philadelphia mint, the die-makers usually have trouble when designs are made by artists who are not familiar with the mechanical problems. At present the Mint is working nights manufacturing silver coin of the old design to keep up with the demand."

Referring to the half dollar, MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY said, "smoothing out the wrinkles in Miss Liberty's dress and keeping the die-makers from cutting off the tips of her fingers took seven months of the hardest kind of work. . . ." Preparation of dies for the Standing Liberty quarter required even more time.

The Winged Liberty Head dime was the first to appear, entering circulation in the latter part of October 1916. The Walking Liberty half dollar was placed in circulation the first week of January 1917, and the Standing Liberty quarter followed later in the month.

"The design of the dime, owing to the smallness of the coin, has been held quite simple," Mint Director F.J.H. von Engelken said. "The obverse shows a head of Liberty with winged cap. The head is firm and simple in form; the profile forceful. The reverse shows a design of the bundle of rods, with battle-ax, known as 'Fasces,' and symbolical of unity, wherein lies the Nation's strength. Surrounding the fasces is a full-foliaged branch of olive, symbolical of peace."

He added: "The design of the half dollar bears a full-length figure of Liberty, the folds of the Stars and Stripes flying to the breeze as a background, progressing in full stride toward the dawn of a new day, carrying branches of laurel and oak,

symbolical of civil and military glory. The hand of the figure is outstretched in bestowal of the spirit of Liberty.

"The reverse of the half dollar shows an eagle perched high upon a mountain crag, his wings unfolded, fearless in spirit and conscious of his power. Springing from a rift in the rock is a sapling of mountain pine, symbolical of America."

The quarter was "intended to typify in a measure the awakening interest of the country to its own protection," von Engelken said. "In the new design Liberty is shown a full-length figure, front view, with head turned toward the left, stepping forward to the gateway of the country. . . . The left arm of the figure of Liberty is upraised, bearing the shield in the attitude of protection, from which the covering is being drawn. The right hand bears the olive branch of peace."

Few coins have captured the spirit of their time as effectively as the dime, quarter, and half dollar of 1916. Many Americans felt that the United States, self-insulated, could avoid involvement in the affairs of the world. As late as September, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson had seen no need "to stir the nation up in favor of national defense."

In contrast, Teddy Roosevelt was a strident advocate of preparedness. Historian John Morton Blum says that "a realization of the oneness of the world, including the United States, impelled him to insist that the nation recognized its international obligations and keep in readiness sufficient mobilized resources to honor them."

Peace and preparedness preoccupied the American consciousness when the re-designed coins appeared. As soon as all three denominations were available, examples were displayed at the American Numismatic Society in New York through the courtesy of Treasury officials.

THE NUMISMATIST said that the designs formed "the most attractive set of silver coins ever issued by this or any other government." The Winged Liberty Head dime in particular was widely praised. "The designer of the new dime has given us a youthful, even girlish head," THE NUMISMATIST said, "But the innovation on the obverse consists in adding wings to the head. This is not, of course, a new type for a coin; it is only new for the United States. The winged head was used almost exclusively on one side of the family or consular coins of the Roman Republic before the Christian era.

"While the obverse carries us back to that time, the reverse reminds us even more forcibly of the coins of France and of the Napoleonic era of little more than a hundred years ago. The fasces was a favorite emblem with the die-cutters of that period, particularly with those who furnished the coins for some of the republics which sprang up almost overnight in Italy when Bonaparte waved the wand. This device is equally new for the United States. The designer has taken the laurel and oak wreath which has enclosed words ONE DIME on the coin for lo! these many years and gracefully draped it about the ancient emblem of authority, producing a very pleasing effect."

Fort Worth, Texas coin dealer B. Max Mehl described the Winged Liberty Head design as "quite an improvement on the old issue and equal in artistic beauty to any previous issue of dimes."

As often happened with new dimes, rumors circulated that gold had been inadvertently mixed with the silver, and that the dimes would be recalled. However, Mehl said, "According to the information we have, there will be ample new dimes issued to be passed around among everyone who has an old dime to exchange for a new one." Mehl had "a few hundred of the dimes on hand" and offered them to readers of his NUMISMATIC MONTHLY at face value, plus postage and registration.

Numismatist David Proskey thought that Miss Liberty resembled Mercury. "The

new dime is far more beautiful than any since the 1807 issue," he said, "but not nearly so beautiful in execution nor so appropriate in design as any of the issues from 1796 to 1807. The profile of Liberty is strongly masculine as to chin. The Phrygian cap, typical of Liberty, is adorned with a wing similar to that we are accustomed to see on the cap of Mercury. It may be suggested therefrom our liberty is of fleeting character, or mayhap depending upon the development of our flying warships, both aerial and naval. . ."

The ten-cent piece was christened with many pet names. Some people called it the "golf dime" because the fasces resembled a golf bag. Other referred to it as the "Wilson dime," a misinterpretation of the small "W" on the obverse. There was also speculation that the "W" signified Wilson's policy of "watchful waiting" with regard to the war.

Weinman's Walking Liberty half dollar, highly regarded today, evoked mixed reactions when it made its debut. "At last we have on our coins the great American eagle in a natural, lifelike form," *THE NUMISMATIST* said. "As represented on the half dollar he is, as the small boy would say, 'some bird,' and his size and proportions are in keeping with the greatness and power of the country."

However, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman chided, "The artist has made this bird a terrestrial fowl, striding or marching on the ground like a turkey-cock, and with as much dignity as one." Another critic said, "The eagle looks as though it were wearing overalls and marching through hot tar" Still another said, "Liberty in sandals taking giant strides across its face might burn her toes if she should step one millimeter nearer the rising sun."

Although *THE NUMISMATIST* called the Standing Liberty quarter "strikingly beautiful," *THE NEW YORK TIMES* saw it as "some too darkly veiled allegory of the Woman's Party and the suffrage movement." Philadelphia coin dealer Henry Chapman offered 1916 Standing Liberty quarters for a dollar apiece.

On January 26, 1917, a press dispatch said: "Reports reached the Treasury Department today from numerous sources that sharpers have been selling at a premium the newly designed quarters and half dollars coined in 1916, representing that the new coins are rare. To correct any impressions that the coins are rare, officials today authorized the statement that 2,330,000 halves and 62,000 quarters of the new design were struck off in 1916 (The actual mintage of quarters was 52,000 pieces.)"

Contrary to numismatic legend, there was no public outcry against Liberty's exposed breast. Rather, the design was modified upon the insistence of Hermon MacNeil and to improve the flow of metal during striking. In January 1917 MacNeil told a friend that the Mint had "garbled" his design and that he was "making a stand for improvements." One month later, Treasury officials announced they were considering changes to the quarter. H.R. 3548, enacted July 9, 1917, authorized the modifications, and by November the revised Type 2 design was in production.

"The most noticeable difference is on the reverse," Farran Zerbe said. "The eagle is higher and there is a new arrangement of the stars, three stars being placed below the eagle. On the obverse the features of the head of Liberty are stronger. The sprig in her hand does not engage the 'L.' There are fewer dots in the shield, and the undraped chaste bust of the old has been given what looks like a corsage of mail."

Collectors did not learn of the existence of pattern dimes, quarters, and half dollars of 1916 until the 1930's. Several pattern half dollars were retrieved from circulation in the Philadelphia area. As recently as 1962, Guy Jenkins of Midlothian, Illinois, found a well-worn 1916 pattern dime in circulation. Six or more different

dime patterns, three types of quarters, and seven types of half dollars are known, most of them differing only slightly from the designs that were put into production.

"History is being made very rapidly these days," B. Max Mehl said shortly after the 1916 silver pieces were introduced. "Deeds—great deeds that will be looked back upon for centuries to come—are being performed, and we can hardly keep track of the rapid political and national changes as they transpire. The map of the world is changing before our eyes and none can say where the changes will end. Numismatics will be affected, and many changes will take place in the coinage of the different nations taking part in the present war"

Never again would coinage designs be the exclusive province of Mint employees. A competition was staged for the 1932 Washington quarter, although Treasury Secretary Andrew W. Mellon disregarded the advice of the Fine Arts Commission in selecting the design.

In 1938, Felix O. Schlag won \$1,000 for his Jefferson five-cent-piece design, one of 390 entries submitted for judging. The competition for Bicentennial coins was open to the public, but subsequent contests have been limited to small groups of invited artists.

The 1989 Bicentennial of Congress half dollar, dollar and \$5 gold piece are the most recent coins selected via a design competition, continuing a tradition established by the silver coinage of 1916.

THE AVAILABILITY AND SCARCITY OF AU STANDING LIBERTY QUARTERS

By J.H. Cline

At the outset, let me state that, in the discussion that follows, I am not quite in agreement with the grading services' criteria for judging full heads. While the services maintain that the full head can stop at the hairline or curl, and does not necessarily have to continue all the way down, that is not how I rate full heads. I also consider facial features in my classification criteria.

When I think of scarce AU Standing Liberty Quarters, the 1927-S in AU58 comes immediately to mind. I have seen MS62's and MS63's that look AU, and supposed AU's that actually graded MS62. The 1927-S is actually less available in AU than the 1918/7-S overdate, although the price certainly does not reflect this. Full head 1927-S's are virtually nonexistent in AU. As a matter of fact, I believe that there has only been one certified by each of the services with any mention of the head at all. (PCGS stipulates that a full head is necessary for a grade of MS66, and NGC specifies one for MS65.)

Second in scarcity is the overdate. Everyone believes that full heads are seldom found in 1918/7-S AU's. Actually, I have seen several, although I stated in my book that I had seen only one or two. Since that statement went into print, I have personally handled about three, one at the A.N.A. in Cincinnati. I had an opportunity to buy that coin, and it was recently advertised in COIN WORLD for \$19,500.

Next in scarcity is the sleeper 1920-S, which is so elusive with a full head as to be almost unobtainable in any grade. I believe that both grading services have slabbed a total of less than ten 1920-S's all told, so that makes an AU full head a virtual impossibility. I don't recall ever having handled a 1920-S full head. If I have, it must have been a piece that did not excite my memory.

The 1926-S has to be one of the top ten coins in AU58 full head scarcity. It is nearly impossible to find. Although I have seen a few, it has not been in recent years. They are few and far between, and very tough to find. Personally, I think that I would rather own an AU 1926-S with a full head than an MS62 or MS63 without.

I suppose that the 1926-D would have to come in high on the list also. I can only recall seeing two AU 1926-D's with full heads. Many people compare them with the 1924-D, but they should not, because as far as I am concerned, full head 1926-D's are tougher than full head 1924-D's in all grades.

Also, the 1920-D would have to be considered among the "top ten" in terms of AU full head scarcity. Admittedly, they are more common than some others, if an AU full head can be called "common." I have a buyer who buys virtually every full head AU item that I find (except 1917 Type I's). I just ship them to him and bill him. That is why you rarely see me advertise them.

It is surprising that the 1929-D is also scarce in AU full head. In AU58, it would rank right up there among the top ten or twelve, along with the 1927-D and very close to the 1924-D.

There are two strange quirks about the whole series. One is that, contrary to my previous opinion and that of a couple of other writers, 1923-S's are readily available in AU58 full head. The 1921, though, is much more elusive than was originally thought. There are two types of 1921 (as I point out in my book) and Type 2 is the

harder to find. Although they come with phenomenal strikes and heads, most were circulated. Quite a few exist, but not nearly as many as the 1923-S.

The 1919-S falls into this category. It was originally thought by myself and other authors that the full head 1919-D is more scarce than the 1919-S. However, findings over the past three years are causing me to reverse that opinion. The 1919-D in full head is turning out to be plentiful in comparison with the 1919-S. I have handled maybe six to ten full head 1919-D's in the past six months to a year. Some areas of the date are often weak, but the head should be nice.

I guess something should be said about full head 1930-S's. Even though Don Taxi's comments in his earlier book label them to be so scarce as to be "non-existent," I find them to be pretty common, as far as full heads are concerned. With the 1930-S on the plentiful list is also the 1930 plain, which is actually a lot more common than the 1930-S full head.

I believe that the 1918-D and 1918-S are in the top ten or twelve Standing Liberty Quarters in AU full head scarcity as well. The 1918-S is a very elusive coin, and the 1918-D even more so (almost, but not quite, as scarce as the 1920-D). Certainly, both the 1918-D and the 1918-S would rank among the fifteen most scarce in full head AU58, with the 1928-D close behind.

The 1928-S and 1929-S rank in about the same category of availability as the 1930-S. While not exactly abundant, they are certainly obtainable.

I can only recall having seen a few 1924-S AU55 or AU58 full head specimens, but I am sure that there are some around. I have only bought and sold one or two in my whole 35 years in the coin industry. Most that I have seen, being a product of the roaring twenties, were circulated to the point that any full heads that they might have had originally have been obliterated. The 1924-D is much more available than the 1924-S, and both would probably command about \$700 to \$1000 in AU. However, you are going to have to do a lot of looking around to find either with a full head.

Concerning the plain mints, the toughest to find is the 1923 full head AU58, although it does come very lustrous in AU. A 1928 is also very elusive in full head, and is a very close second to the 1923. Third in scarcity among the plan mint full head AU58's is probably the 1918.

The plain 1925 is not a common coin in AU full head, and it ranks among the ten most scarce of the plain mints. Full heads are not plentiful in any grade, and 1925 just seems to have been a weak year. The plain mints of 1926, 1927, and 1928 also fall into the same category of full head AU58 scarcity, although fairly lustrous specimens are available. However, don't expect these to have any design in the shield. It seems that the shield is lacking when the head is bold.

Turning now to the other, or "common" end of the list of full head AU Standing Liberty Quarters, the 1917 is first in line, of course. Full head Type 1's can even be found in XF. Probably the next most common is the plain 1930. Like the 1917 Type 1, the 1930 is abundant in full head AU58, and perhaps in grades as low as XF. Both the 1919 and 1920 are readily available in full head AU, and they are usually lustrous as well. There are many full head AU 1924's available, but don't expect any luster. The 1924 coinage is a rather sad lot, subdued in appearance like the 1916.

You can almost say that the 1917-D Type 1 and 1917-S Type 1 fit in the "very available" category in full head AU. They can be found in grades as low as XF. Although the 1917-S is much scarcer than the 1917-D in full head, it seems that the 1917-S lacks a little on the right of the forehead, where the line separates Liberty's hair and her face, cheek, jawbone, and neck. A lot of people make the common mistake of comparing full heads of the plain 1917 Type 1 with the D and S issues of

that year. This should not be. The plain 1917 Type 1 is virtually in a class by itself. While the D and S are usually nice, you will find a lot less than on the plain mint coin.

The Type 2 1917-D and 1917-S are both very, very tough in full head AU. I have retailed the 1917-D Type 2 in full head AU for as much as \$750, and they are worth every dime. The 1917-S Type 2 seems to be a little more plentiful, but they are both very scarce, and I think that you should expect to pay \$400 to \$800, and maybe as much as \$1000 for a really super full head AU for either of these.

Finally, it is time to talk about the 1916. Full head AU's are available, but they will be mushy. During a recent 30 to 45-day period, I bought and sold two. They were gorgeous pieces, but mushy in design. The 1916 is in a class by itself, not comparable to the 1917, so keep that in mind as you scan the 1916's.

I guess you could say that this series (AU pieces that are full head) are virtually overlooked by the majority of the collecting world. Most of the people who are willing to buy an AU full head are often inclined to add a few hundred or a few thousand to get an uncirculated full head. I recently saw a slabbed 1926 full head MS60 that could be had for \$1100. But there are others in the series which are nearly impossible. Most people do not appreciate these, so they are not willing to pay for them. Those of you who are astute enough to shell out this kind of money will be certain to reap the benefits in years to come. When the rest of the numismatic world is willing to accept them for the true rarities that they are, things will start to look up. You enthusiasts, hang in there. In all of your looking, even when you are about to give up, don't! It is rewarding and a big challenge to start and then complete a set of AU full head Standing Liberty Quarters. Lots of luck, guys and gals.

IT'S FILLER TIME

There was to have been a second part to Mark Nestmann's series dealing with the finest-known specimens of low-population Standing Liberty Quarters in this issue. However, Mark received an urgent writing consignment that demanded his attention, and his series will be continued in the fall issue. At times like this, editors have been known to get into the act with filler material. Thus the title for this piece, and the following little story.

Some of you may have been following the dialogue between Alan Herbert and his readers in NUMISMATIC NEWS regarding the possible number of combinations in which eight-digit "radar" notes (those whose serial numbers read the same backwards as forwards) can be formed. One of the more recent replies in a letter from David Mauro of Tolland, Connecticut, pointed out that the number of possibilities numbered 10,000, or 10 to the fourth. This discussion brought to mind a story about the famous mathematician Leonhard Euler.

While a Swiss schoolboy in Basel during the early 1700's, Euler's class was given the assignment of adding up all the numbers from 1 to 100. The first student to finish was to raise his hand.

One can imagine the schoolmaster settling back for what he must have thought would turn into a lengthy break. As all the other students began scribbling madly on their slates, young Euler sat quietly at his desk, looked thoughtful for a few moments, then slowly raised his hand. Responding to what he thought must be a question, the schoolmaster asked what the young man wanted. Euler replied, "The answer, Sir. It's five thousand and fifty."

It's tempting to speculate on what must have been going through the mind of the flabbergasted teacher at this point. He couldn't imagine that Euler might have foreseen the problem and worked it out beforehand, nor could he conceive of him doing the sum in his mind in just seconds.

But that's exactly what Euler did. Except instead of using grunt work, he used logic. As he explained to the class, what he had done was to visualize the sum of all the numbers from 1 to 100 as the equivalent of 50 matching sets of 101 each. That is, the answer was the sum of the sets $1+100$, $2+99$, $3+98$. . . $49+52$, $50+51$. Fifty sets, 101 per set, 50 times $101=5,050$. Piece of cake!

Larry Gedney

WANTED



BUYING:



PAYING TOP DOLLAR

FOR ALL STANDING LIBERTY QUARTERS

in MS64FH and better. PCGS coins preferred;
uncertified OK if they will
grade out at these levels.

SERIOUS WANTLISTS SOLICITED!



LARRY WHITLOW, LTD
/Galleria Unique

One Lincoln Centre, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181
PHONE 800/456-2646

In Illinois or outside continental U.S., Call 708/916-2646

Authorized Traders: Randy McIntosh, Kathleen Brady, Michael Printz



LM-608



169



THE STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER: PART II AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS

By George W. Vanden

The present paper addresses the inherent or fixed characteristics of the Standing Liberty quarter. Objective qualities of this coin may be divided into two categories: standards including composition, weight and dimensions; constants encompassing dates, mint marks, varieties and weaknesses.

STANDARDS

Composition:

An assay of the Standing Liberty quarter proves identical to that of the previous series, the Barber or Liberty Head type. The coin contains 90.0% silver and 10.0% copper (Yeoman, 1988).

Weight:

By law each specimen is to weigh 6.25 grams. Utilizing 90% silver content, a 25-cent piece possesses 5.625 grams of the precious metal; with 10% copper, the average Standing Liberty quarter contains 0.625 grams of the harder element.

Dimensions:

In order to distinguish the coin from other denominations, diameter is 24.3 mm. Since the obverse and reverse do not consist of flat surfaces, but are in relief, thickness depends on point of measurement across coin. Highpoints on the Standing Liberty quarter are considered again in the section on Varieties.

CONSTANTS

Dates:

Quarter dollars have been produced since 1796 with seven major types. The Standing Liberty quarter represents the third shortest series in the denomination and the shortest-lived 25-cent piece of those lasting ten years or more (Yeoman, 1988). A complete set contains 38 different coins. This type was minted for 15 years between 1916 and 1930, inclusive. However, no quarter was issued in 1922. (The reader may recall that in 1922 just the Lincoln cent was produced only at the Denver Mint. Due to die wear and/or breakage in the press, the "D" became illegible under the date and this provided numismatists with the scarce and long-sought-after 1922-Plain Lincoln penny.) (Taylor, 1982).

One overdate, the 1918/7-D remains the second rarest of such coins behind the 1918/7-D Buffalo/Indian Head nickel. This date is the most difficult member of the series to obtain, especially in higher grades (Bowers, 1986). The Standing Liberty quarter example is the only overdate of any denomination produced at the San Francisco Mint (Zaner, 1990).

Mint Marks:

Standing Liberty quarters were minted at Philadelphia, Denver (D) and San Francisco (S) as mentioned above. Only the Philadelphia facility produced quarters for 1916, 1921 and 1925, and no "D" quarters were issued in 1923 or 1930.

Varieties:

Due to public outcry regarding Miss Liberty's exposed breast, in 1917 a piece of body armor was added to cover the chest area. One popular numismatic writer calls the solution "... a classic case of overcompensation. . ." (Bowers, 1986). At the time women were honored, respected and revered. Your author finds the fact hard to believe that in 1916 Miss Liberty was depicted on national coinage bare from the waist up. Lawmakers in Washington must have been consumed by the ongoing war effort. A prevailing relaxed attitude toward exposure, nudity and explicit sex would produce little public resentment now. I am afraid that those early days, when "female" and "modesty" were synonymous terms are lost forever. On the reverse the eagle was raised slightly to accommodate the addition of three stars below. This action gave rise to Variety I without armor and Variety II with armor.

Originally, the date was placed *on* the step below Miss Liberty's feet and easily wore off as the figures remained unprotected by higher features of the obverse. In 1925 the date was relocated to a depression made *in* the step. This modification, although small in scope, greatly increased the date's longevity and initiated Variety III.

Weaknesses:

Both sides of the Standing Liberty quarter contain many fine details. In order for these points to appear on business strikes, the dies must exhibit little or no wear, be properly spaced, and the machine operating with the correct amount of pressure. More often than not, the Standing Liberty quarter was produced with variations in these quantities and the resultant is somewhat weak, particularly in the head area. Since the head represents a high point on the coin, it would be low on the die and therefore very sensitive to wear, spacing and pressure. The condition is termed "Full Head" when the entire pattern is apparent, and "Flat Head" if the design is missing. Note that intermediate graduations, usually 50%, 75%, 90% and Virtually Full Head are used to describe the Standing Liberty quarter. Data for estimated percentages of "Full Heads" on a year-by-year basis are given by Cline (1976, 1986).

Part III of this continuing series will concern a date, mint mark and quality study of the Standing Liberty quarter.

Bibliography

Bowers, Q. David, *United States Dimes, Quarters and Half Dollars: An Action Guide for the Collector and Investor*; Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc., p. 103, 1986.

Cline, J.H., *Standing Liberty Quarters*, J.H. Cline, pp. 76-121, 1976.

Cline, J.H., *Standing Liberty Quarters (Revised)*, J.H. Cline, pp. 101-178, 1986.

Taylor, Dr. Sol, *The Collector's and Investor's Guide to the Lincoln Cent*, Sol Taylor, Ph.D., p. 44, 1982.

Yeoman, R.S., *A Guide Book of United States Coins - 42nd Edition 1989*, Western Publishing Co., Inc., pp. 123-137, 1988.

Zaner, Keith M., *Trends*, COIN WORLD, Amos Press Inc., pp. 50-52 and 81-84, February 14, 1990.



FUN
LM-ANA
LM-CSNS
LM-ISNA
PENN-OHIO
ICTA MEMBER
NGC DEALER
PCGS DEALER



STANDING LIBERTY QUARTER SPECIALIST



WE BUY & SELL ALL GRADES

Write or Call for Details

CLINE'S RARE COINS

P.O. Box 68
Palm Harbor, FL 34682

"We humbly solicit your want list"

J.H. Cline, Owner

Phone:

(813) 785-2148

(813) 787-3478



ADVERTISEMENT

There is no charge for classified advertisements from collector-members; maximum of 40 words.

DEALER ADVERTISING RATES:

	One Issue	Four Issues
Quarter Page	\$15.00	\$50.00
Half Page	25.00	85.00
Full Page	40.00	135.00

One possible copy change during the four-issue period.

Deadlines for articles, letters to the editor and advertisements for the remaining two issues in 1990 are August 15 and November 15.

Send them to the editor: Larry Gedney
PO. Box 102
Ester, Alaska 99725

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale

Cline, J.H. *Standing Liberty Quarters*. 1976, 135 p., pl, ill., S.C. \$7 UPS \$8 USPO
Send \$1 (refundable) for full book list. Henry Bergos, 637 5th Ave., Brooklyn, NY
11215.

Choice XF and AU Standing Liberty Quarters. Call or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for price list. J. Abbin, 11716 Tivoli NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111
(505) 296-7678.

Wanted

Needed: One 1919-D and 1919-S IN PCGS MS64 State. Send price in letter to Jimmy Chan, 5140 East Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90022-1704.

Note: The SLQCS is not responsible for the accuracy of any advertising contained herein.